

JOHN has been an institution on the Appropriations Committee. He has served as chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee during the 104th Congress, after being ranking Republican on the full committee for several years. He also has served as ranking Republican on the Ethics Committee and on the old Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

JOHN's intelligence, fairness, and integrity are unquestionable. JOHN is known to be an independent thinker and is one of those congressmen who really thought hard about an issue before deciding how he should vote. His record of achievement has earned him the respect of everyone on both sides of the aisle.

JOHN has served the 7th District and the State of Indiana in an exemplary manner these past 30 years. I'm really going to miss him. This place won't be the same without him. I wish JOHN and Carol a very long and happy retirement.

#### LET'S HEAR IT FOR FIRE SAFETY: TEST YOUR DETECTORS

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 1996*

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Fire Prevention Week. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Let's Hear it for Fire Safety: Test Your Detectors."

One life lost to fire is a great tragedy. When that tragedy could have been prevented, it compounds the loss. Smoke detectors are necessary equipment in every home to prevent tragedies from occurring. Every home in West Virginia should be equipped with properly installed and maintained smoke detectors outside sleeping areas as well as one on each level of the house, basement included.

Statistics show that 13 out of every 14 homes have at least one smoke detector, but far too many are not working. I am trying to raise that statistic in West Virginia to 100 percent. With the assistance of the Berkeley County Office of Emergency Services and State Farm Insurance, I have made a fire prevention video which teaches children how smoke detectors operate and how to maintain them. This video is distributed to every elementary school in West Virginia.

Obtaining a smoke detector can be as easy as contacting the local fire department. Many fire departments and local organizations participate in free give-aways of smoke detectors.

Over the past 2 weeks the Congressional Fire Services Institute hand delivered to every Member of Congress, a Fire Prevention Week Community Awareness Kit, courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association. I urge all my colleagues to use the information contained in those kits.

#### USTR ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARGENTINEAN FOOTWEAR

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 1996*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I support the action taken by United States

Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky on October 1, 1996, concerning Argentinean footwear. USTR announced the United States has filed a section 301 complaint with the World Trade Organization [WTO] against Argentina due to their practices concerning footwear and textiles. This action is necessary to curb Argentina's unfair trade practices.

Argentina maintains specific import duties on textiles, apparel, and footwear that are above the 35-percent ad valorem tariff rate to which Argentina committed under the WTO agreements. USTR has decided to invoke WTO dispute settlement procedure. The WTO should take action to make Argentina comply with the WTO agreement.

Argentina has taken action in the past and this action is unacceptable. USTR realizes the actions taken by Argentina are insufficient and inappropriate. Consultation with the WTO has become necessary. I commend Ambassador Barshefsky for taking the appropriate action.

For companies in Massachusetts, this action by Argentina is dangerous. The action taken by USTR will help those businesses who have been discriminated against because of the unfair trade practices of Argentina. In Massachusetts, companies such as Reebok and thousands of Massachusetts employees, depend upon fair access to foreign consumer markets for their livelihoods.

Once again, I congratulate Ambassador Barshefsky and offer my continuing support for firm steps to enforce our international trade treaties to benefit U.S. interests.

#### STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 1996*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE DON RITTER—FORMER CO-CHAIRMAN, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON AFGHANISTAN, JUNE 6, 1996, NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

I want to thank you Chairman Brown and the other distinguished Members of this Committee for holding this important and timely hearing on Afghanistan. I would also like to express my appreciation to my former colleagues, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher and Congressman Charles Wilson, as well as the other witnesses offering testimony today before this Committee. Congressional leadership on this issue has always played an important and historic role.

We are gathered here today out of concern for the people of Afghanistan and that war-torn country that has suffered unspeakable brutality and neglect. Clearly, the United States, so active over so many crucial years, needs to place a higher priority now on the agony and devastation of Afghanistan and its people.

Mr. Chairman, the United States has a moral obligation to the people of Afghanistan because of their pivotal role in defeating the Red Army at a time when Communism was on the march around the globe. This seems like ancient history sometimes but, ultimately, Afghanistan proved to be the Achilles Heel of the Soviet Communism and military expansion. One can make a

strong case that the Soviet Empire would not have met its demise, nor would the Berlin Wall have come down and the people of eastern Europe and the former U.S.S.R. made free, if the people of Afghanistan had not had the courage to fight the Red Army when it invaded. For over a decade, the Afghan people paid a heavy and horrible price fighting the Soviet Union for their beloved country—mass executions, chemical attacks, cities destroyed, villages burned, the countryside mined, children orphaned. Millions of Afghans fled or were murdered by the communists. The point is this Mr. Chairman: Freedom loving people in the United States and around the world thus owe an important debt to the Afghans for helping to win the Cold War and the course of world history.

The bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Afghanistan that I helped lead with Senator Gordon Humphrey, Congressman Charles Wilson, Congressman Bob Latham, and others pressed for U.S. humanitarian and military support for the Afghan people during some of the darkest and most brutal periods of Soviet military operations in Afghanistan. In recent years, after the Soviet withdrawal and the communist defeat, I have grown increasingly troubled by the tragic fate that has overtaken Afghanistan. The United States must again reassert a leadership role to help the people of Afghanistan.

The point is this: We fought together with the Afghan people to win the war. In a very real sense they served on the front lines for us. Now is the time to fight together to win the peace. Its the right thing to do. We have the responsibility.

Although I no longer serve in Congress, I am willing to step forward once again to join you, Mr. Chairman, along with Congressman Wilson, Congressman Rohrabacher and others committed to helping to find solutions to the situation in Afghanistan. I would encourage others to join me in this effort—Americans and Afghans, those in government as well as in the private sector. Now is the hour. Now is the time for the United States to launch a new initiative to help bring peace, stability and prosperity to the war-weary and suffering people of Afghanistan.

Finally, the United States, as this Committee well knows and will explore today, ignores the situation in Afghanistan at great peril. Afghanistan remains important to the national interest of the United States for geostrategic and national security reasons because of its pivotal role regarding Central Asia, the Middle East, and South Asia. If the United States will not take a leadership role in Afghanistan, Iran and other hostile terrorist forces will. In a world that for us grows ever smaller and more integrated all the time, this prospect in South Asia is more threatening to the United States. America must act with resolve and courage to help the people of Afghanistan while there is yet time.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 3, 1996*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to commend the Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana. This distinguished organization is holding its fourth annual benefit at St. George Serbian Orthodox Church in East Chicago, IN this Sunday, October 6, 1996.